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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Steve Brandstetter

Serial No.: 09/933,067

Examiner: C. Coburn

Filed: August 20, 2001

Art Unit: 3714

For: GAMING DEVICE BONUSING SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

DECLARATION OF STEVEN CAMPBELL

I, Steven Campbell declare as follows:

1. I have been working in the gaming industry for seven years as an Engineer designing gaming machines.
2. I have worked for Sigma Games, Alliance Gaming, Excel Design and Wing Design.
3. I have reviewed the application of the present invention and the actual machine that is covered by the patent application.
4. I have reviewed the Castellano patent, Dabrowski patent, Quinn patent, Bittner patent, Heidel patent, and Piechowiak patent.
5. There is no machine out in the market today which pays a bonus to a player playing a gaming machine wherein the player places the coins in a gaming machine. The gaming machine being either a slot machine, video poker machine, video keno machine, or video bingo machine. The machine counts the coins placed in the gaming machine and shows the player the number of coins placed in the gaming machine. The machine

shows the player the number of coins needed for a ticket to be generated. The machine further dispenses a ticket when the number of counted coins equals the number of coins needed for a ticket to be generated.

6. Castellano relates to an electronic coin tracker for coin operated machines, particularly video games. The coin tracker monitors the deposit of coins and the activity of the coin operated machine. The coin tracker reports this activity electronically preferably through an infrared light data link. A coin counter counts the number of times that the coin received electrical signal is received in order to maintain a current coin count representing the number of coins received into the coin receiving mechanism; a transmitter further communicates the coin received electrical signal. A read out is responsive to external interrogation for externally communicating the current coin count.

7. The coin tracker device of Castellano's sole function includes an electronic money counter that receives electrical signals produced within the apparatus upon the entrance of money into the apparatus so as to **electrically** maintain a record of money entered into the apparatus. The money counter includes an interrogatable and resetable first electronic counter that maintains a count of monies entered into the apparatus since a previous interrogation read out. This interrogatable first electronic counter resets to a zero count upon each and every occasion of its interrogation readout.

8. **Because the money counter means of Castellano is electronic, the count of its first electronic counter and the grand total count of its second electronic counter are not directly discernable by the human senses.**

9. The device of Castellano relates to a means for counting the coins that enter a coin operated machine for preventing false reports and theft of funds. An electronic

sensor receives and stores the readouts, and outputs such stored readouts when directed to do so. The coin tracker keeps track of redemption tickets issued by the machine.

10. Dabrowski relates to a bill validator assembly that retrofits a coin and token only slot machine to be operable with paper currency. The insertion of the paper currency causes a credit meter to be incremented according to the value of the paper currency. The player uses the credit accrued on the credit meter to play the slot machine. A visual display of credits accrued is shown on a meter visible to the player. Various LED displays are also provided including a first display that displays to the player the number of credits remaining.

11. Claim 1 requires that the device have a dispensing unit which comprises a numeric counter for counting the number of coins a player has placed in the gaming machine. The dispensing unit visually displays the number of coins a player has placed in the gaming machine. The dispensing unit further comprises a means for visually showing a player the number of coins necessary to generate a ticket. The dispensing unit further comprises a ticket dispensing apparatus.

12. There is nothing in Castellano which teaches to add a visual display as shown in Dabrowski to show a player the number of coins a player has added to the machine. The purpose of Castellano is to electronically read the coin counter to make sure that the number of coins received is equal to the number of coins played by the machine. Castellano uses an electronic counter which is not directly discernable by the human senses. The person who owns the machine requires this information, not the player who is playing the machine. Therefore, there is no teaching to combine Castellano in view of

Dabrowski. Further the combination of references does not teach visually providing to the user the number of coins needed to generate a ticket.

13. Quinn relates to a central computer which controls remote vending machines wherein the vending machine, in response to instructions from the computer, prints entertainment tickets, lottery tickets, etc. The computer keeps inventory and accounts. The consumer can make a selection, and the computer instructs the consumer how much currency must be inserted into the vending machine. The computer recognizes the currency inserted, and if correct, the computer instructs the vending machine to print out a ticket or other form of script. The system prints out active script.

14. To complete the transaction, the customer deposits in coin the amount of money necessary to make the purchase. The amount is shown automatically in the window. The number of quarters necessary to complete the purchase is shown in window. As each quarter is placed in the coin deposit slot and accepted by the machine, the counter visible through the window increases one unit until it reaches zero.

15. Amended claim 12 requires that the player play a gaming machine consisting essentially of a slot machine, video poker machine, video keno machine, or video bingo machine. Quinn teaches a device where a user puts coins into a machine and receives a lottery ticket. The player does not play a gaming machine as I understand the definition as defined in the patent application.

16. Bittner relates to a gaming machine and game coupons for allowing an operator to redeem winning game coupons by inserting them directly into the gaming machine rather than taking them to a cashier. The gaming machine includes a bill validator for accepting currency and winning game coupons from an operator. It includes a code reader for

reading the coupon prize codes as the coupons are inserted into the bill validator. The gaming machine issues game credits to the player depending on the prize codes of the submitted game coupons.

17. Claim 2 requires that the device have a dispensing unit which comprises a numeric counter for counting the number of coins a player has placed in the gaming machine. The dispensing unit visually displays the number of coins a player has placed in the gaming machine. The dispensing unit further comprises a means for visually showing a player the number of coins necessary to generate a ticket. The dispensing unit further comprises a ticket dispensing apparatus. The dispensing unit is a side mounted box attached to the gaming machine.

18. There is no teaching to combine the teachings of Castellano and Bittner, since Bittner uses the side mounted box for redeeming coupons which is not taught by Castellano, nor Dabrowski.

19. Heidel relates to a touch screen video gaming machine. Video lottery terminals that employ touch screens permit a number of different games to be played on the same machine, by using electromechanical game buttons in conjunction with touch screen controls. Video gaming machines find application as video lottery terminals in state administered lotteries. As video lottery terminals these gaming machines function in the same manner as video gaming machines found in state regulated casinos except that they generally use ticket printers to print tickets that can be exchanged for cash payments instead of paying winning amounts through a coin hopper as in conventional gaming machines. The video lottery terminal also includes a coin acceptor, a bill acceptor and a ticket printer.

20. Castellano teaches redemption tickets which are commonly redeemable at a central stand of the gaming arcade for small prizes, or souvenirs. There is nothing in Castellano which teaches the ticket to be a raffle, sweepstakes or lottery ticket. Further there is nothing in Castellano or Dabrowski which teaches combining with Heidel.

21. Piechowiak relates to a bonus award feature in linked gaming machines having a common feature controller. Each of the linked gaming machines is connected to a common controller. In a normal mode of play, each of the linked gaming machines operates like a conventional machine where the generation of certain combinations of symbols provide awards to the players whose machines generate such combinations. In addition to the normal mode of play, a bonus feature is added where the generation of combinations of bonus symbols is used by a central controller to build up a pooled bonus value based upon the values of the combinations of bonus symbols generated by all the linked gaming machines. When a player hits a combination which causes the accumulated bonus value to meet or exceed a predetermined value, a bonus award is given to the player which caused the threshold to be exceeded. To discourage players from not playing any of the linked gaming machines until the accumulated bonus value is near the threshold, each machine has an independent hit counter which is incremented based on the number of occurrences of bonus combinations generated by that machine. The player may use the value in his/her individual hit counter in order to exceed the award threshold for the bonus award.

22. The feature controller of Piechowiak could modify the award table in each of the gaming machines, via communication lines to reflect the enable feature. The gaming machine compares its game result to the award table and then provides a corresponding

award. In this embodiment, feature controller would still poll the various gaming machines to determine whether the feature should be enabled or disabled in the various award tables.

23. Claim 7 requires that the bonus be paid on a single gaming machine. Piechowiak requires that the bonus be paid on linked gaming machines. Further there is nothing in Castellano or Dabrowski which would combine a bonusing system for the number of coins played. Further there is nothing in Castellano or Dabrowski which would teach linking games, since each device is individually controlled.

24. There is nothing in Castellano or Dabrowski which teaches a remote unit for changing the number of coins necessary to generate the ticket linking games.

25. Claims 15 and 16 requires that the player play a gaming machine consisting essentially of a slot machine, video poker machine, video keno machine, or video bingo machine. Quinn teaches a device where a user puts coins into a machine and receives a lottery ticket. The player does not play a slot machine or gaming device as defined by claims 15 and 16.

26. I hereby declare that all of the statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent application to which it relates or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 3/21/03

Steven Campbell
Steven Campbell